

Message Text

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SUBJ: ELECTION DATE QUESTIONED BY LOCAL A.F.M. SPOKESMEN.

NOV. 13, "JORNAL DE NOTICIAS" CARRIES ARTICLE ON LAST NIGHT'S SESSION OF "CULTURAL DINAMIZATION CAMPAIGN" NOW UNDERWAY IN OPORTO SUBURB OF VALBOM. ARTICLE GIVES EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH OF CAPT. SOARES LEITE OF SIXTH INFANTRY REGIMENT IN OPORTO CONCERNING THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF APRIL 25TH AND INCLUDES REPORTER'S SUMMATION OF QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WHERE CAPT. AND OTHER OFFICIALS FROM SAME REGIMENT RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS. ACCORDING TO J.N.'S COVERAGE OF LATTER:

1. DEPARTURE OF TOMAS AND CAETANO TO BRAZIL WAS THE RESULT OF FOREIGN PRESSURE, PARTICULARLY WEST GERMAN AND WAS ACCEDED TO BECAUSE OF FEAR OF ECONOMIC RETALIATION.

2. GEN. KAULZA DE ARRIAGA WOULD HAVE BEEN CHOSEN CHIEF OF STATE HAD "SILENT MAJORITY" ACHIEVED GOAL AND A CASE IS NOW BEING PREPARED FOR HIS TRIAL.

3. GEN. SPINOLA WAS NOT INVOLVED IN EVENTS OF SEPT. 28TH OTHER THAN PERHAPS WISHING TO INCREASE HIS PERSONAL POWER. THIS COULD NOT BE PERMITTED BECAUSE IT MIGHT LEAD TO DICTATORSHIP.

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4. SPINOLA REMAINS ON ACTIVE DUTY, BUT WITHOUT A POSITION

AND AS A FOUR STAR GENERAL COULD ONLY OCCUPY BESIDES
PRESIDENCY, CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF OF ARMED FORCES, WHICH
HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO BE OCCUPIED BY GEN. COSTA GOMES.

5. PALMA CARLOS REPRESENTED THE INTERESTS OF HIGH CAPITALIST
FINANCE AND COULD NOT ACCEPT THE ANTIMONOPOLISTIC A.F.M.
PROGRAM.

6. LT. COL. FIRMINO MIGUEL WAS CHOSEN BY THE A.F.M.,
INCLUDING BRIG. VASCO GONCALVES, TO FILL VACANCY ARISING
FROM PALMA CARLOS RESIGNATION. MIGUEL DID NOT ACCEPT
POSITION FOR REASONS AS YET UNKNOWN.

7. IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT IF CONCLUSION IS REACHED THAT
PORTUGUESE PEOPLE, IN ALL REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY, HAVE
NOT BENEFITTED FROM AUTHENTIC LIBERTY TO ENLIGHTEN
THEMSELVES, IT WOULD BE UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE ELECTIONS
FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MIGHT BE POSTPONED FOR
ANOTHER YEAR PERMITTING A REGIME OF AUTHENTIC LIBERTY TO
BECOME EFFECTIVE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND THE THUS ALLOWING
THE PEOPLE TO MAKE UP FOR THE FIVE MONTH DELAY IN
DEMOCRATIZATION (THOSE FIVE MONTHS CORRESPONDING TO THE
PERIOD WHICH ENDED ON SEPTEMBER 28TH.)

COMMENT: WHILE ARTICLE WAS HEADLINED ON FRONT PAGE WITH
CAPTION "DEPARTURE OF TOMAS AND MARCELO FOR BRAZIL WAS
IMPOSED BY FOREIGNERS", MOST INTERESTING FEATURE WAS
COMMENT ON ELECTIONS. THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT SUBJECT
HAS BEEN BROACHED IN NORTHERN PRESS AND BECAUSE OF
SOURCE IS LIKELY TO PROVOKE CONSIDERABLE LOCAL COMMENT.
GIVEN FACT THAT THIS IS FIRST A.F.M. CAMPAIGN IN NORTH,
THAT CULTURAL CAMPAIGN SPOKESMEN ARE STILL GREEN AND
INEXPERIENCED, AND IMPROBABLY EXPLANATION OF EXILE, IT
IS, HOWEVER, LIKELY TO BE GIVEN LITTLE CREDENCE.
TAYLOR

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